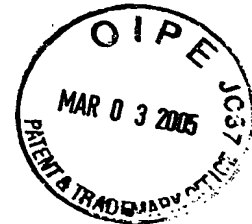


**Amendments to the Abstract:**

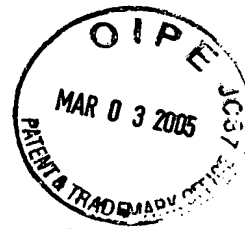
Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as submitted herewith on a separate unnumbered page.



## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~The invention relates to a~~ A router device (200) ~~having~~ has a plurality of ingress line interface cards (LICs) (~~212, 214, 216, 218~~), a plurality of egress LIC's (~~222, 224, 226, 228~~), a backplane ~~[(230)]~~ and a controller ~~[(240)]~~.

Transmission of signals from the ingress LICs (~~212, 214, 216, 218~~) to the controller, ~~[(240)]~~ and ~~likewise the transmission of signals~~ from the controller ~~[(240)]~~ to each of the ingress ~~LICs (212, 214, 216, 218)~~ and ~~each of the~~ egress LICs (~~222, 224, 226, 228~~) takes place across the backplane ~~[(230)]~~. Each ingress LIC (~~212, 214, 216, 218~~) is provided with a dedicated timeslot in which it can send information to the controller ~~[(240)]~~ via connection ~~[(242)]~~. Information is sent in a slice within the dedicated timeslot and each egress LIC (~~222, 224, 226, 228~~) ignores data sent by a given ingress LIC within the timeslot assigned to said ingress LIC. A similar system is used for transmission of communications from the controller ~~[(240)]~~ to the LICs. It is thus possible to avoid provision of additional, dedicated communications paths between the LICs (ingress and egress) and the controller ~~[(240)]~~.



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